

# ND PAS EXCHANGE

April 2005

Supported by the State Board For Career & Technical Education  
<http://www.nd.gov/cte/secondary/programs/agricultural-ed/newsletters.html>

Volume 2

## State President



Howdy! My name is Nikki Thompson and I am your North Dakota State PAS President. I am a junior attending Dickinson State University, majoring in Natural Resource Management. GO BLUE-HAWKS!! I will graduate in May of 2006. I am originally from Arnegard, North Dakota

and went to Watford City High School. I am the oldest kid from a farming family of five. In college, I am very active in extracurricular activities. I am the treasurer of our local PAS/Ag Club, I am in Collegiate 4-H, and I am the Public Relations Chair for the 2005 DSU Homecoming. I am an intern for the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and I was placed in Bismarck last summer, and this coming summer I will be in Cando, North Dakota. After I graduate, I plan to work with the NRCS.

My favorite things include angels, anything purple, my cell phone, and my I LOVE NY bag. I basically love life and can have fun no matter what I'm doing! If people could describe me they would say I'm charismatic. I love my family and we do a lot together. I love my friends and spend every waking moment with them. Most of my best friends are the people in PAS/Ag club. So, since our club does a lot of things, we are together all of the time.

Ag Club is not just a club for me, it is my life. I LOVE AG CLUB and everything that has to do with it. I encourage you to be active in PAS and try to recruit more people as well. If they could just come to one regional, state, or national conference they would know that it is such a blast, and the job opportunities are END-LESS!!!!

Thank you for electing me as your ND PAS President!

Sincerely, Nikki Thompson



## State Secretary



Hello – I am Sara Begger, your State PAS Secretary. Nikki and I are serving as your state officer team this year and we are looking forward to a year of growth and excitement for PAS. This is my first year at North Dakota State University and I am an Agriculture Education major. Wibaux, Montana is my home and I was an active member of the FFA for 4 years, serving as chapter President for 3 years.

I am an outgoing person with a positive attitude. I believe that this is what it takes to be a good PAS member. We have to be ready to get the job done and have fun at the same time. Through high school I was very involved in many activities, and now as a college student I am making sure to be active in lots of extracurricular activities. I believe that participation in these activities is essential to compliment the course work I am taking.

PAS is a good choice for agriculture students. It provides a means to experience skills necessary for our future careers and is fun at the same time. PAS is professional and yet social, because we all are meeting, competing alongside of and getting to know other young professional in agriculture from across our state as well as in our region.

I had the opportunity to represent you as a delegate to the 25<sup>th</sup> National PAS convention. Thank you for that privilege. I am optimistic about the future of PAS. As we move into our next 25 years I predict that there will be tremendous growth. Especially as more and more industries become aware of the quality of our members and how PAS helps prepare them for careers in agriculture.

Have a great summer

## PAS Mission

The National Postsecondary Agriculture Student Organization provides opportunities for individual growth, Leadership, and career preparation

## Being a Delegate at Albany, New York

By Nikki Thompson, President

New York! What a BLAST! The people, the workshops, the contests, and the exciting officer elections! Sara Begger from NDSU (your ND PAS Secretary) and myself, Nikki Thompson from DSU (your ND PAS President) had the wonderful opportunity to be the delegates for the great state of North Dakota at the 2005 National PAS Conference held in Albany, New York. We enjoyed a tour of New York City which included a ferry ride to the Statute of Liberty, a tour of Ground Zero, Central Park, and Rockefeller Plaza.

We also enjoyed SO MUCH GREAT FOOD, the cowboy poet Baxter Black, and many inspirational speakers at the banquets. We met very interesting people and have memories to hold forever! We got to participate in the contests that were held, and they were all great competitions. Sara and I in our blue and red formal attire attended business meetings with the other delegates, discussed important PAS issues, and also got a chance to drill the National Officer candidates. There were many wonderful candidates and it was a hard competition, although one of our own got nominated to a National Vice-President spot. CONGRATULATIONS JASON TEWS!!!!!!

The hotel and the service were phenomenal and good times were had by all. One thing that was noticed of North Dakota was how close all our schools were. In colleges from other states, people don't even know that some of the their colleges exist. I think that we should be proud of the state we are from and the bond we have made with each school! I think we also have Doug Vannurden to thank for that! THANKS DOUG! On behalf of the new officer team, we had a great time in New York and we have a GREAT year ahead of us! Thank you for sending us to New York, it was tremendous experience! Congratulations to all of the winners in New York and Thanks for the memories!

## National Convention Fun Times



2nd Place members in Nat'l Ag Machinery Service Technician: Sheryl Sally, John Deere Co.; Aaron Weeldryer, Shawn Johnson, & Larry Ascherman, NDSCS.



BSC horse took top prize as the most uniquely decorated horse.



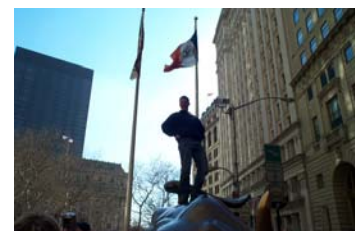
Nikki Thompson placed 2nd in Nat'l Impromptu Speaking Competition.



Schoon family—Lealand was 1994-95 National PAS President.



Doug & Lyle's wood carvings brought hundreds of dollars at the live auction.



Jason Tews on the Wall Street "BULL"

## NDSU PAS/Ag Club

By Ashley Vangness, Vice President

The NDSU PAS/CFFA meeting was called to order by President, Teresa Oe on April 12 at 8:30 PM. There was no Secretary's Report. Kevin reported there is about \$900.00 in the account, according to the last statement.

The fundraising committee reported that they have the tickets all ready to go and we can do it next fall to raise some money instead of this spring. Amanda gave a Philanthropy report. She spoke about Relay for Life. If you need to, you can sell bags in the Union next week. She needs to have your money by Thursday the 21st. Relay for Life runs from 7:00 PM on April 22-7:00 AM on April 23rd. Under Old Business, we had officer nominations. Sara Begger was nominated for President. Ashley Vangness was nominated for vice president. Britni Chase was nominated for Secretary, while Jeremy Zinc was nominated for Treasurer. Amanda Kongsli was nominated as Historian and Lacey Schnider was nominated as our CSO/CASAC representative. For fundraising chair, Jennifer Ashley and Teresa Oe were nominated. Teresa read a thank you for participating in the Little "I" booth contest. Sara spoke about National Convention. Jason received a national office.

Under New Business, we are in good status with the University. Teresa reviewed the Constitution and turned it in. We can review it again next fall. ND State FFA Convention staff is looking for people to help out during the week of June 6-10. There is also a need for a couple of PAS members to sell candy, pop, and water at the dances on June 7th and June 9th.

Under announcements, there will be a Dodge Ball Tournament in Sheppard Arena on April 16th with proceeds going to charity. The next and final meeting of the year will be held April 26th at 7:30 PM. It is our Spring Picnic held at Jeremy Zinc's place. The PAS chapter will pay for the meat. Everyone bring food to share.

## National Vice President



Hello North Dakota PAS members and advisors. Hope everyone is excited for the end of the year.

I would like to start out by thanking everyone for the chance to be President of NDPAS this past year and making this year a great success.

I would like to congratulate everyone who attended and competed at the national PAS conference in Albany, New York. It was a

fun and exciting conference which included a tour of New York City which was great. We all had a lot of fun and a lot of laughs. North Dakota also had two chapters which were awarded with golden chapter awards for increased enrollment. Congratulations NDSCS and NDSU. Like last year there was an animal decorating contest. This year's animal was a horse and there were a lot of great looking horses entered into the contest. Congratulations to Bismarck for taking first in design. There were a lot of people who did place this year at nationals too

many for me to list here but congratulations to all of you.

I also had the opportunity to run for a national officer spot at this year's conference, which was a fun and exciting process. There were 13 candidates for 6 officer positions. I was fortunate enough to be elected into one of four Vice President positions. This year's national officer team has a lot of work to do to keep up with last year's team. I will have to opportunity to travel around the country to various events and represent PAS.

I would like to stay in-touch with all of you during this next year and would like to attend any functions that your chapters may be having. All of my contact information can be found on the national PAS website.

Hope all of you have a great rest of the year and summer and cannot wait to hopefully see all of you at next year's national convention in St. Louis!!



## 2005 State PAS Convention

### By Doug Vannurden, State Advisor

The Minot International Inn was again the site of the 2005 State PAS Convention. A total of 90 members and advisors attended this years 25<sup>th</sup> State Convention. State Advisor Doug Vannurden reviewed the History of the State Organization at the Wednesday night banquet, and recognized some of the founders and long-term supporters of our organization. Members may have been surprised to learn that the "Junior College Agribusiness Salesmanship Contest" was being held for 5 years before the founding of the PAS organization in North Dakota on November 16<sup>th</sup>, 1979.

Thursday's guest speaker was Chris Bair, 1991 past National PAS Vice President from Idaho. His message related to how his experiences in PAS helped him in his Agribusiness career with Bliske Auction Services. Chris then assisted with the PAS fundraising auction. Our other featured speaker and entertainer was Blake Krabseth who had a motivating message about finding yourself and pursuing your dreams, and then he amazed the group with a wide array of magic tricks that included lots of audience participation.

A total of nine members competed in this years "Speakers for Agriculture" award program. **Heather Dean** of NDSCS earned the top award in Prepared Speaking and **Nikki Thompson** placed first in Impromptu Speaking. Ten teams also participated in the Ag Machinery Service Technician Career program. **Aaron Weeldryer** and **Shawn Johnson** of NDSCS were the top team and **Shawn Johnson** earned high individual honors.

Fifteen students competed in the Employment Interview Career programs. Area winners were; **Seth Williams**, BSC – Crop Production; **Kimberly Spears**, BSC – Feeds/Animal Health; **Dustin Seright**, BSC – Livestock; **Nikki Thompson**, DSU – Agribusiness Administration; **Sara Begger**, NDSU, - Ag Sales and Service; and **Tina Hirsch**, DSU – Forestry & Natural Resources.

Career Planning Awards were earned by; **Bridger Bohmbach**, BSC – Animal Production; **Brandon Schilling**, NDSCS – Agribusiness Administration; **Derek Frank**, BSC – Ag Sales; **Nathan Fronning**, NDSCS – Ag Management & Marketing; and **Heather Dean**, NDSCS – Ag Equipment. Career Progress Awards were won by: **Sheldon Schwab**, NDSCS – Crop Production; **Darin Okerson**, BSC – Crop Production; and **Andy Johnsrud**, DSU – Ag Technology. College Bowl competition on Wednesday evening included 8 teams and 40 Individuals. The top team for the evening was the **NDSU Team**

In the Ag Specialist Career Programs 7 teams and 13 Individuals competed in the Crops Specialist Program; 4 teams and 23 Individuals competed in the Livestock Specialist event; 1 team and 3 Individuals participated in the Equine Specialist contest; and 1 team and 3 students participated in the Soil Specialist program. The top team in Crops was **Jason Feisel** and **Darin Okerson** of BSC. Winners of the Equine Specialist program were **Rusty Makelky** and **Lynette Brimmer** of DSU. Soil Specialist Awards were won by **Myles Henne** and **Nathan Arnold** of BSC. Livestock Specialist Team awards were won by NDSU with team members **Teresa Oe**, **Jason Roise**, **Kim Lohse**, **Mike Malard** & **Ashley Vangsness**. High Individual awards were presented to **Teresa Oe** in beef, **Mike Malard** in Sheep, **Ashley Vangsness** in Swine and **Teresa Oe** was the overall high Individual.

The Agribusiness Salesmanship event continues to be the most popular State Convention event. A total of 43 students were placed with Ag Expo exhibitors and Judged on Thursday afternoon. High Individuals in each division were: **Myles Henne**, BSC who was with the Minot Cenex booth in the Machinery Division; **Nikki Thompson**, DSU was with the High Qual company winning the Equipment Division; **Seanna Sparks** of DSU competed in the Vanseed Hybrids booth winning the Seed and Feed division; and **Rusty Makelky** of DSU won the Ag Products and Services division placed in the Livestock Concepts company booth.

Complete convention results and award sponsors are listed in the 2005 results booklet available on the State PAS website at: <http://www.edutech.nodak.edu/ndpas/>.

# North Dakota goes to New York!

By State Secretary, Sara Begger

On March 13, 2005, the PAS chapters from North Dakota took off for the big town of Albany, New York. The chapters included Bismarck State College, Dickinson State University, North Dakota State University, and North Dakota State College of Science. Three of the 4 eager chapters decided to take the train all the way, while Bismarck State College decided to fly.

The train ride took approximately 36 + hours, with the stopping in the middle of the tracks for broken rails, and other miscellaneous stops along the way. These lucky members got to stop in Chicago and go to the top of the Sears Tower. That's a stop no one will forget. From the conning postcard guys who would take them back if they didn't get any money, although one very giving member did decide to give one guy a buck, to the backed up septic systems on the train, it is one adventure no one will forget.

Upon arriving in New York, the anxious group got settled in, and some even went for a nice, relaxing swim. The first day was mainly for getting registered and getting acquainted with their surroundings before the big events got going. Two chapters did run into a problem with their horses however, they were not where they were supposed to be. It took a while, but all the horses were finally accounted for and put into the auction.

Tuesday was probably the highlight of the trip with a tour of New York, New York! With buses loaded by 6 a.m. the eager group got on the road. Boy, it's quite a way from Albany to New York. Most people slept, while others watched the on board movie "Anger Management." This kept many people very entertained. We finally got to New York and the tour began.

To start the tour, we went to the Empire State Building. Yes, we went to the top, and boy was that a windy expedition. However, we only got to go to the 86<sup>th</sup> floor, where in the Sears Tower we got to go up to the 106<sup>th</sup> floor. At the top, there were several people who decided to go out of their way with gifts which made it quite a spendy stop.

Next we went to the pier. There were vendors everywhere, and boy those pretzels were delicious. We got on the boat and headed either to the Statue of Liberty or Ellis Island. The boat ride was a little bit chilly, but definitely worth it once we got there. The food was delicious and what a view! Those pigeons definitely liked onion rings, but they did make up for it on a few people. Hey guys, did you ever get your coats cleaned?

Now back to the mainland for a guided walking tour of New York. Our tour guide was pretty cool, and definitely knew what he was talking about. At the Stock Exchange, North Dakota managed to fit 13 people on the bull, Doug included. Not bad for our state! Then we got to see the Nation's First Capital building. That was pretty impressive. After that came the church from "National Treasure." This cathedral was very impressive! Along the way we even got to meet one of the actors from "Law and Order." That was awesome! He stopped and talk to us; unfortunately, he is trying to get killed off in one of the next episodes. Oh well, we can at least say that we saw and talked to him!

Finally, after an extremely long walk around New York, we got to one of the main stops of the tour, the Twin Towers site. This was very powerful, especially since our guide was two blocks away from the site when it happened. He was able to give us his recollection of the event, and kind of put us there. There are just two large holes in the ground where the towers used to stand.

Next to the site was St. Paul's Cathedral. It was the only building near the towers that didn't get damaged. There was a large oak in front of the building that took most of the blow. The survivors were taken there and the church is now a museum with several artifacts from the towers. One of the neatest parts about the cathedral was the fact that there was a uniform made out of badges from departments all around the United States, and Fargo's was right on top! That's North Dakota for ya!

To finish up the tour, we took the bus through the city and went to see Rockefeller Center and the outside of the "Today Show." The last stop on the trip was Central Park. We barely got to walk around the outside, but nonetheless, it was beautiful. John Lennon's widow still lives in their apartment over looking the park. She



## North Dakota goes to New York!

(continued)

was home when we were there because she opened the blinds. It was pretty neat.

The next day started the contests. For the rest of the week, everyone was busy running around and doing various things from tours to contests. The chapters even grouped up to form teams for the quiz bowl. However, no one made it to the final round, but it was fun nonetheless. Every night however, we regrouped and had an awesome banquet. The food was different than we were used to, but at the same time very delicious. After the banquets was the entertainment. They had Baxter Black the last night, and the rest of the nights were dances. One night you could even get a PAS binder if you were there at the right time.

Everyone had a great time. Some people met up with old friends, while others made new ones. It was a very educational experience that no one will forget any time soon.



### National Website Showcases Convention

The National PAS Website address is: <http://www.nationalpas.org/>. Be sure to go to the National PAS website and click on the National Conference wrap-up. There are four slideshows of photos from the National Convention including pictures of the decorated horses brought from each chapter. There are also a few photos from the New York City tour. There are many other features available to PAS members on the National PAS website and we encourage you to go there often and check it out. The national office does an excellent job of keeping our National website up to date and current.



## National PAS Convention-Albany Hosts 25th

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Convention for the National Postsecondary Agriculture Students Organization was a great celebration in Albany, New York March 16-19. A total of 36 North Dakota PAS members and advisors attended the conference.

Members and Advisors from DSU, NDSCS and NDSU experienced the unforgettable adventure of traveling to the conference on Amtrak. The 35 plus hours on the rails each way were appreciated in varying degrees by the 24 brave souls that chose this mode of transportation. Here are a few "shorts" from the trip that may help you understand the highs and lows of train travel. -- "Well – this is better than a bus!"-"Look at the Eagles!"-"This trains maximum cruising speed is 79 miles per hour!"-"Tews and Vannurden are playing Dominos in the club car again!"-"What are we stopped for now?"-"The train is oversold, so you have to allow someone else to sit in that seat!"-"The train departure from Chicago has been delayed for train maintenance – (2 Hours)"-"Where are the electrical outlets in this car??"-"Man, can that guy snore!"-"You lowegians need to clean up your language!" and "I'll never do this again, but I'll be sure to tell Lyle Warner just how wonderful this was".

Members traveling to Albany included; Lyle and Pat Warner, Jacob Schaffer, Dave Just, Myles Henne, Seth Williams, Nathan Arnold, Dustin Frounfelter and Sally Sand from BSC; Taryn Hauso, Rusty Makelky, Lynelle Brimmer, Andy Johnsrud, Nikki Thompson, Stephanie Sabin, Tina Hirsch, Kris Novodvorsky, Joel Klein, Camille Jorgenson, and Denise Deitz of DSU; Sara Begger, Ben Krebs, Jason Tews, Laura Oftedahl, and Justin Vogel of NDSU; and Shawn Johnson, Aaron Weeldryer, Heather Dean, Charles Privratsky, Brandon Schilling, Nathan Fronning, Sheldon Schwab, Brad Tews, Larry Asheman and spouse of NDSCS. State Advisor Doug Vannurden also traveled with the delegation to Albany.

1994-95 National PAS President, Lealand Schoon and his family were also in attendance to help celebrate this milestone. Lealand completed a term as president of the PAS Associates organization.

One of the most memorable parts of the trip was the pre-conference tour of New York City. A total of ten charter buses left Albany for various locations in Downtown New York City. Points of interest included stops at the Empire State Building, the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, Wall Street, the footprints of the World Trade Center, Rockefeller Plaza, Central Park, plus various points of interest that were identified as we drove by them – including Radio City Music Hall, Yankee Stadium, Soho, Greenwich Village, Harlem and the Bronx. Some of us rode the Bull on Wall Street (and now truly know why they call it Wall Street) and stood on the platform across the street from the New York Stock Exchange where George Washington gave his inaugural address. Our tour guide told us of his personal experiences on 911, and we all felt the awe and quiet reverence of "Ground Zero – a term - that we were informed – is not used by New Yorkers any more.

The New York City tour was impressive and will be something to remember for a long time. The 25<sup>th</sup> National PAS Conference was also an outstanding event. Over 650 Students and Advisors attended this years conference representing 18 states. "**Agriculture Excellence – PAS It On!**" was the 2005 Conference theme. Outstanding motivational and entertaining speakers included Matthew Lohr, Broadway, Virginia and world famous Cowboy Poet Baxter Black. An abundance of career workshops and tours of New York Agriculture were available to participants when not involved in participating in Award Program competitions. The National Industry Fair provided members the opportunity to visit with some of the Nations top Agribusiness representatives from companies such as Agrilience, John Deere, Kuhn/Knight, and Archer Daniels Midland.

North Dakota was well represented in a wide variety of the Career Program Areas and special recognition was earned. Shawn Johnson and Aaron Weeldryer, NDSCS placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the **National Ag Machinery Service Technician** event sponsored by John Deere. They each won \$350 cash and plaques plus a \$600 cash award to the school to purchase training aids. NDSU participants Ben Krebs and Justin Vogel each received plaques and \$50 cash but did not finish in the top three teams.

Jason Tews, NDSU and graduate of the NDSCS Ag program, was elected **National Vice President of the National PAS Organization**. He will serve a one year term as a member of the 2005-06 National Officer Team. Jason is the 13<sup>th</sup> North Dakota PAS member to serve on the National PAS Officer team.

State President Nikki Thompson and State Secretary Sara Begger were **Official Delegates** to the convention. Denise Dietz of DSU served as **State Flag Bearer**. Nikki placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the **National Impromptu Speaking Competition** and was also 3<sup>rd</sup> in the **Agribusiness Administration Employment Interview** awards. Tina Hirsch of DSU placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the **Forestry and Natural Resources Employment Interview** program.





## National PAS Convention-Albany Hosts 25th (continued)

The **Livestock Specialist Sheep team** placed third in the national competition and split a \$75 cash award. Team members were **Denise Dietz**, DSU; **Dustin Frounfelter** and **Seth Williams**, BSC. **Sheldon Schwab**, NDSCS received a **National Merit** award for **Career Progress in Crop Production**. **Heather Dean**, NDSCS, also received a **National Merit** award for **Career planning in Agricultural Equipment**.

Evenings were filled with dances, a casino night, comedians, and other entertaining events. **Sheldon Schwab** of NDSCS walked away with the top prize in the “**Texas Hold-Em**” tournament. Decorated horses were an interesting addition to the conference and the annual PAS fundraising auction. The BSC horse was judged as the most uniquely decorated horse and took the top prize this year. Wood carvings by Lyle Warner and Doug Vannurden also brought in hundreds of dollars for this years live auction



### Upcoming Events

#### 2005

- June 6-10 State FFA Convention—Fargo  
(Greetings from PAS on June 7)
- September 21-23 Regional Conference—Wilmar, MN
- November 15 State & National Dues — Due in State Office

#### 2006

- Jan. 25-27 State PAS Conference—Minot
- March 15-18 National PAS Conference—St. Louis, MO